

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01209 010246Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /035 W
-----010602 083319 /21

R 281506Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2902
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1209

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (SEELYE, TALCOTT W.), PFOR ET US
SUBJ: VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE

1. VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE FEB 23-26
ONCE GAIN PROVIDED US WITH MIXED SIGNALS CONCERNING EPMG'S
VIEWS OF ITS RELATIONS WITH USG. THROUGHOUT VISIT, ATTITUDES
OF MAFA AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WERE WARM AND CORDIAL. SEELYE
WAS MET AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL BY FOUR-MAN CONTINGENT FROM
MOFA (TO OUR SUPRISE) HEADED BY CHEIF OF PROTOCOL AND
DIRECTOR, AMERICAN DIVISION. MEDIA ANNOUNCED HIS ARRIVAL AND
DEPARTURE BRIEFLY, AND ARRIVAL WAS CARRIED ON TV. NINETY-
MINUTE SESSION WITH ACTING FONMIN GETACHEW KIBRET FOLLOWING
DAY AND 60-MINUTE SESSION WITH ACTING MINDEF KIFLE
WORKU LATER ON SAME DAY WERE FRANK AND OPEN. LUNCHEON
HOSTED BY GETACHEW FEB 25 WAS IN SIMILIAR CORDIAL VEIN.
GETACHEW TOLD SEELYE THAT EPMG "VALUED HIGHLY" ITS
RELATIONS WITH USG BOTH IN PRIVATE SESSION AND IN
COURSE OF TOAST AT LUNCHEON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 01209 010246Z

2. ON OTHERHAND, DESPITE ENCOURAGING NOISES JUST BEFORE
SEELYE ARRIVAL, AND STRENOUS EFFORTS ON OUR PART,
PMAC CHAIRMAN CHOSE NOT TO RECEIVE CHARGE AND SEELYE.
MOFA OFFERED VARIETY EXCUSES, NONE OF WHICH WERE
VERY CONVINCING: ORIGINAL SCHEDULE PUTTING SEELYE IN
ADDIS OVER WEEKEND WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FROM TIMING
POINT OF VIEW, SEELYE WAS NOT CARRYING SPECIAL MESSAGE,

MENGISTU WAS ALREADY OVERSCHEDULED DURING TIME OF VISIT AND HAD TO CANCEL SOME APPOINTMENTS.

3. MENGISTU PRESUMABLY COULD HAVE SEEN SEELYE HAD HE CHOSEN DO SO. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHY HE DID NOT: A) THERE WAS IN FACT NO SPECIAL MESSAGE AND THEREFORE NO PROPAGANDA VALUE TO MENGISTU IN SEEING SEELYE AT TIME WHEN FOREIGNERS (ALMOST ALL EAST EUROPEANS PLUS CUBANS) HE HAS BEEN SEEING HAVE BEEN CARRYING MESSAGES OF SUPPORT, B) HE (OR EPMG) WAS TURNED OFF BY AIDE-MEMOIRE RE CIA LEFT WITH MOFA JUST PRIOR TO SEELYE VISIT (WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF THIS, HOWEVER, OR EVEN THAT HE IS AWARE OF AIDE-MEMOIRE), C) HE DOES NOT FEEL AT HOME WITH WESTERN ENVOYS AND PREFERS THAT MOFA DEAL WITH THEM, D) HE WAS IN FACT PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS (HE WAS NOT REPORTED IN MEDIA TO HAVE SEEN ANYONE DURING PERIOD OF VISIT INCLUDING CUBAN AND EAST GERMAN DELEGATIONS UNTIL MORNING OF SEELYE'S DEPARTURE WHEN HE SAW CUBANS, RECEIVED SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM CZECHS, RECEIVED CREDENTIALS OF NEW SWISS AMBASSADOR AND RECEIVED DEPARTING UNDP CHIEF), E) EPMG CHOSE NOT TO RECEIVE SEELYE IN REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON OF REDUCTION IN ARMS ASSISTANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS (TIMING PROBABLY PRECLUDES THIS, BUT IT NOT IMPOSSIBLE), OR F) HE SIMPLY DIDN'T WANT TO SEE US.

4. THUS , ON ONE HAND WAS CORDIAL MOFA RECEPTION WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT AT LEAST DIRG ACQUIESCENCE, IF NOT DIRECTION, AND ON OTHER, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 01209 010246Z

FAILURE OF MENGISTU TO RECEIVE HIM, WITHOUT PROOF, I TEND BELIEVE MOFA WAS INSTRUCTED MAKE VISIT A SUCCESS, FOR WHEN I MENTIONED TO GETACHEW AT MOFA LUNCHEON THAT I FEARED WASHINGTON WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED THAT CHIRMAN WAS NOT GOING TO SEE SEELYE, HE HASTILY TOLD ME THAT WE SHOULD PLEASE NOT READY ANY ADVERSE SIGNAL INTO FACT THAT CALL WASN'T GOING TO TAKE PLACE.

5. RESULT, AS INDICATED IS MIXED SIGNALS. ONE ANSWER MAY HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING FEB 27 DURING RALLY CALLED BY LABOR UNIONS PRECEDING BURIAL OF ALL-ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION LEADER ASSASSINATED FEB 25 WHICH STIMULATED MUCH ORATORY AND MANY PLACARDS WHICH INTER ALIA ONCE AGAIN FETURED CIA. YET, AS DEPT AWARE, ANTI CIA BUSINESS IS NOW OVER FIVE MONTHS OLD AND HAS BEEN TROTTED OUT DURING ALL RECENT MASS RALLIES.

6. ON DEPT INSTRUCTIONS, ORIGINAL REQUEST TO EPMG WAS FOR CHARGE TO MAKE COURTESY CALL ON MENGISUT.

UNLESS DEPT WISHES OTHERWISE, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND
MOFA THAT REQUEST STILL STANDS, ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE WE
SHOULD NOW LET EPMG REACT RATHER THAN PUSH FOR MEETING
AT ANY GIVEN TIME. PLEASE ADVISE.
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
DecapTION Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
DecapTION Note:
Disposition Action: Released in Full
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: 200202525
Disposition Comment: RECORDING OF CLASSIFICATION/RECLASSIFICATION ACTION IN SAS (STATE ARCHIVING SYSTEM) BY THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR THIS ACTION, WHO HAS APPROVED RECLASSIFICATION AND OR EXTENSION ACTION ON THIS DOCUMENT.
Disposition Date: 03-Dec-2007 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: Released in Full by JOHN BLODGETT on 03-DEC-07 ;
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS01209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770069-0668
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977025/aaaaadv.g.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 87e0f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3339768
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, ET, US, (SEELYE, TALCOTT W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87e0f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009